

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 IO-14 ISO-00 FRB-03 OMB-01 TAR-02 SP-03

SWF-02 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-11 LAB-06

NSAE-00 OIC-04 RSC-01 SIL-01 STR-08 TRSE-00 CIEP-03

CEA-02 L-03 AF-10 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 SS-20 NSC-07

DRC-01 /220 W

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P R 061100Z SEP 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8065

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5607

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNCTAD, CI

SUBJ: UNCTAD TDB XIV: POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON STATUS OF
CLODOMIRO ALMEIDA

1. SUMMARY: BOARD WILL PROBABLY BE FACED WITH PROPOSAL TO REQUEST UN SYG TO INTERVENE WITH GOVERNMENT OF CHILE ON BEHALF OF CLODOMIRO ALMEIDA. US DEL, WITH MISSION CONCURRENCE, RECOMMENDS US DEL BE AUTHORIZED CALL FOR VOTE AND VOTE AGAINST. INSTRUCTIONS REQUESTED.

2. AS NOTED IN REPORTS ON PLENARY SESSIONS, QUESTION OF CHILEAN GOVERNMENT TREATMENT OF CLODOMIRO ALMEIDA, FORMER GOC FOREIGN MINISTER AND, AS SUCH, PRESIDENT OF UNCTAD III, HAS BECOME UNEXPECTED ISSUE AT BOARD. WHILE NO TEXT YET AVAILABLE, WE UNDERSTAND THAT AFRICAN GROUP INTENDS TO PUSH AHEAD WITH PROPOSAL FOR BOARD ACTION WHICH WOULD INSTRUCT PRESIDENT OF BOARD TO REQUEST UN SYG WALDHEIM TO INTERVENE WITH CHILEAN GOVERNMENT ON ALMEIDA'S BEHALF. AS CURRENTLY THOUGHT OF, INITIATIVE WOULD REFER
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TO "INHUMAN CONDITIONS" OF ALMEIDA'S DETENTION. AIM

OF UN SYG APPROACH WOULD BE TO SEEK ALMEIDA'S FREEDOM.

3. US DEL HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY SPANISH (FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH CHILEANS) AND AUSTRALIAN DELEGATIONS, AND WE HAVE INFORMALLY DISCUSSED WITH SWEDISH DEL. THEY REPORT THAT AFRICAN POSITION SOLID, LATINS WILL PRESUMABLY SPLIT AND ASIANS UNCLEAR. LEADING AFRICAN DEL REPORTED AS SAYING THAT SUPPORTERS OF PROPOSAL WILL NOT RPT NOT SEEK UNIFIED GROUP OF 77 POSITION AND THAT THEIR PRELIMINARY HEAD COUNT LEADS THEM TO BELIEVE THEY WILL HAVE LARGE MAJORITY IN FAVOR.

4. SWEDES AND AUSTRALIANS HAVE INFORMED US THEY WOULD VOTE IN FAVOR OF PROPOSAL ASSUMING WORDING NOT "TOO OFFENSIVE." ACCORDING TO AUSTRALIAN, EC-9 MEMBERS WILL ALSO VOTE IN FAVOR IF REFERENCE TO "INHUMAN CONDITIONS" DELETED (EC BELIEVE ALMEIDA RECENTLY MOVED TO ACCEPTABLE FACILITY, LARGELY AS RESULT OF A JOINT DEMARCHE OF THEIRS).

5. US DEL, IN FORM OF INITIAL REACTION, HAS TOLD INTER-LOCUTORS THAT WE COULD ONLY REGRET INTRODUCTION OF POLITICAL (OR BE IT HUMAN RIGHTS) ISSUE INTO UNCTAD FORUM. WHATEVER THAT MERITS OF ALMEIDA CASE, OF WHICH DEL UNAWARE, PROPOSAL WOULD BUILD TREND DISRUPTIVE OF ENTIRE UN SYSTEM. AUSTRALIAN AND SWEDISH DELEGATES AGREED, AND ALSO AGREED THAT ALL OF GROUP B WOULD OPPOSE, IN PRINCIPLE, SUCH A PROPOSAL ON PROCEDURAL GROUNDS. GIVEN THEIR SUPPORT IN SUBSTANCE, HOWEVER, THEY--AND THEY ASSUMED OTHER GROUP B MEMBERS -- WOULD NOT RPT NOT TAKE UNIFIED POSITION EVEN ON PROCEDURAL QUESTION.

6. COMMENT: WE NOTE NEITHER CHILEANS NOR ANY INTERESTED LATIN AMERICAN DELEGATION HAS APPROACHED US ON THIS ISSUE. IN VIEW OF THIS, AND PLAY OF FORCES DESCRIBED ABOVE, US DEL RECOMMENDS THAT WE TAKE NO RPT NO INITIATIVE TO OPPOSE PROPOSED BOARD ACTION, OTHER THAN TO RESPOND TO INQUIRIES THAT WE COULD NOT AGREE TO IT BECAUSE OF THE INAPPROPRIATENESS OF THE FORUM.

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7. US DEL WITH CONCURRENCE US MISSION THEREFORE RECOMMENDS THAT IF ITEM IS INTRODUCED USDEL BE AUTHORIZED CALL FOR VOTE AND VOTE AGAINST.

8. REQUEST DEPT CONCURRENCE.
DALE

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